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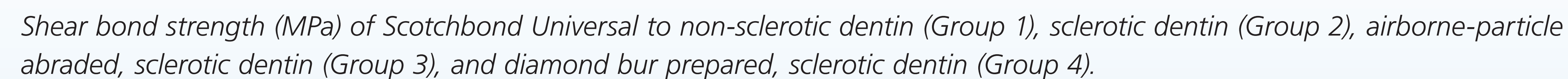
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To investigate substance loss and bond strength capacity of sclerotic, non-carious cervical dentin after airborne-particle abrasion or diamond bur preparation.

Fifteen non-sclerotic dentin specimens were made from crowns of extracted human incisors of which the labial surfaces had been ground with silicon carbide papers (non-sclerotic control; Group 1). Forty-five sclerotic dentin specimens (n=15/group) were made from the labial, non-carious cervical root part of extracted human incisors and underwent either no pre-treatment (sclerotic control; Group 2), pre-treatment with airborne-particle abrasion (CoJet Prep [3M ESPE] and 50 µm aluminium oxide; Group 3), or with diamond bur preparation (40 µm grit size; Group 4). Substance loss after pre-treatment was measured in Groups 3 and 4. Subsequently, Scotchbond Universal (3M ESPE) and resin composite (CeramX [DENTSPLY DeTrey]) were applied on the treated dentin surfaces. The specimens were stored at 37°C and 100% humidity for 24 h. After storage, shear bond strength (SBS) was measured and data analyzed with nonparametric ANOVA followed by Wilcoxon rank sum tests.

Substance loss (medians) was 19  $\mu\text{m}$  in Group 3 and 113  $\mu\text{m}$  in Group 4. SBS-values (MPa; medians) in Group 2 (9.24) were significantly lower than in Group 1 (13.15;  $p=0.0069$ ), Group 3 (13.05;  $p=0.01$ ), and Group 4 (13.02;  $p=0.0142$ ). There were no significant differences in SBS between Groups 1, 3, and 4 ( $p\geq 0.8063$ ).



Airborne-particle abrasion and diamond bur preparation restored bond strength of Scotchbond Universal to sclerotic dentin to the level of non-sclerotic dentin, with airborne-particle abrasion being less invasive than diamond bur preparation.

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